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BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY-400 023,
July 18, 1981.

ROBERT GRUBH

After completion of the above H.A. saw a note in the Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Union (1930) 100 p. 205 where P. R. Colston, British Museum (N. H.) wrote of a sea-trip from Australia when "the first Pale-footed Shearwaters (*P. carneipes*) were sighted in rough seas on 16 July near Bombay." In reply to an inquiry Mr. Colston says "The ship arrived and left Bombay on 15 July 1963 and

it was on the following day 16 July that I saw c. 20 Pale-footed Shearwaters. I would guess some 500 miles west of Bombay — en route for Aden. So they were not close enough for your Bombay list". This may be mentioned for completion of records in Indian literature.

May 5, 1982.

9. THE PINTAIL (*ANAS ACUTA* LINN.) — AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF BIRDS OCCURRING IN KERALA

A small artificial lake brought into being around 1968 for the supply of fresh water to the Cochin Unit of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., at Ambalamedu began to be used as a daytime refuge by wintering wildfowl soon after its creation. On my first visit to this excellent refuge (7 to 9 February, 1981). I was surprised to find that in addition to the Garganey (*Anas querquedula*) and the Lesser Whistling Teal (*Dendrocygna javanica*) there were not less than 3000 Pintail (*Anas acuta*) on the lake. As nearly 50% of the Pintail were males in summer plumage, there was absolutely no doubt regarding their identity. I was able to watch the Pintail and the other ducks many times during the three days I spent at Ambalamedu.

On 7 March, 1981, I was able to spend a few hours beside the Ambalamedu lake once again. On this occasion too all the three species noted a month ago were present, but the number of Pintail was below hundred. On the previous day, when camping at Kumara-

kam near Kottayam, from the number of ducks seen overhead in the evening, I concluded that the well-known roosting site off Pathiramanal in the Vembanad backwaters (Sálim Ali 1969) continues to be used by large numbers of ducks. Here, however, the ducks are being persecuted regularly by hunters, whereas at Ambalamedu they are given good protection. Unfortunately, the Ambalamedu lake is too small for all the ducks to resort to it during the daytime. Therefore, and especially since this area is being developed into a tourist centre with the accent on boating and water-sports, immediate steps have to be taken to provide complete protection to the wildfowl that spend the daytime on the water off Pathiramanal. This is the only major waterfowl resort left in Kerala today.

Considering the fact that the Pintail is one of the easiest of wild ducks to identify, it is surprising that no previous record of its occurrence in Kerala seems to exist. Could the drought of 1980-81 on the eastern side of the

Peninsula have forced the Pintail to move west?

The Cochin Unit of FACT deserves the gratitude of all bird lovers and conservationists for the commendable manner in which they are managing the environment generally, and the lake in particular, in order

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TRIVANDRUM,
July 6, 1981.

to provide the maximum security to their birds, both resident and migrant. I am personally obliged to Mr Vijaya Sankar, Managing Director, Mr T. Nandakumar and Mr Padmanabhan, Officers, of the FACT Cochin Unit, for their hospitality and help.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

REFERENCE

ALI, SALIM (1969): Birds of Kerala. Oxford University Press, Madras, p. 41.

10. FLAMINGOS BREEDING IN THOL LAKE SANCTUARY NEAR AHMEDABAD

On 21 June 1981, I visited the Thol Lake Sanctuary about 30 km from Ahmedabad along with a party from Doordarshan for making a film programme on Flamingos.

The flamingos were approximately 5000-6000 in number, and other water birds were also seen in large number. The most surprising sight was the presence 70-80 of Flamingo nests. Young ones of the Flamingo were also noticed. As the birds had remained throughout the whole year (May 80-May 81) in this

area, I wondered whether the birds had bred also, and this had lead me to search for their nests. Finally we were successful in locating the nest colony. The nests were 70-80 and in small groups of 5-6 at different places, on the opposite bank of the lake .

The possibility of this area being an additional breeding ground for Flamingos in India, apart from already known breeding ground in Great Rann of Kutch, needs to be placed on record.

17, SWARAJ NAGAR,
AMBAWADI, ELLISBRIDGE,
AHMEDABAD - 380 015,
June 27, 1981.

P. S. THAKKER

11 OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN WADERS IN SRI LANKA

Recently I had occasion to leaf through Volume 2 of the 2nd Edition of the *HANDBOOK* and a few comments in regard to the occurrence of certain Waders in Sri Lanka seem necessary.

No. 374. Large Sand Plover (*Charadrius*

leschenaultii) — Although the distribution map shows Sri Lanka as a wintering place for this species, Sri Lanka is not mentioned in the text. The Large Sand Plover is reported fairly often (see Bird Club Notes).

No. 378. Eastern Ringed Plover — (*Cha-*